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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to action on the merits, please amend as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-17.

Please add the following new claims:

--18. A polypeptide amounting in total up to about 100 amino acids which comprises the following sequence

Thr- X_4 -Lys- X_5 -Arg- X_6 / (SEQ ID NO:19),

wherein .

 X_4 and X_5 are independently selected from the group consisting of Met, Ile, Leu and Val; and

 X_6 is selected from the group consisting of Asn, Asp, Gln and Glu,

wherein at least one of the following conditions (I) - (V) is true:

- /I) at least one of X_4 , X_5 , X_6 , Thr. Lys. and Arg is indepen-
- dently substituted with a non-natural or unusual amino acid,
 - II) the polypeptide is cyclized,
 - III) the polypeptide is stabilized,
 - IV) the aminoterminal amino acid residue is acylated, or
 - V) the carboxyterminal amino acid residue is amidated,